

**Congressman Bishop gave the following remarks at the Tired Creek Permit Presentation in Grady County on Tuesday, June 1, 2010:**

Good afternoon! Let me correct myself, and say “Great Afternoon!” This is indeed a great occasion. It is a pleasure to be with you all today, and I want to thank you for your kind introduction and for including me in today’s program.

Today is very special for me. It is a great milestone. I have personally worked on the Tired Creek project throughout my years in Congress, and so I am very happy to see this permit issued. My staff and I have put in many hours working with the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division on the Tired Creek project – so we understand why it’s called “Tired” Creek. And I know the Grady County Commissioners have worked equally hard for this permit, as have many other county officials and individuals.

At the end of April, I met with the officials from Grady County, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Fish and Wildlife, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and other constituents to discuss a Section 404 Permit. That was just over a month ago, so it is a great pleasure to be back so soon to celebrate the issuance of the permit!

I have enjoyed my many visits to Tired Creek, most recently to the point on Tired Creek where the dam for the reservoir is to be constructed, and I am very pleased that the efforts of all of us here today have come to fruition with the issuance of this permit. It is my hope that this project will stimulate the Grady County economy and community well-being, so I look forward to seeing the development as it progresses and the success of Tired Creek.

There is an old proverb that says, “Do not cast your nets in rivers where there are no fish.” And I know there were times when it seemed that no permit would be issued, and that seeking the permit was like casting our nets in a river without fish. Today, we have proved this wrong – we caught a big fish! And as a result, we’ll soon see a 900-acre residential lake full of fish!

This is a lesson in persistence – we are here today to celebrate the hard work and persistence of many people. Everyone here has contributed something to this project, and I am honored to be among you.

I look forward to hearing from you, as you share your stories of teaching your children and grandchildren to fish in Tired Creek. And I hope they, too, will teach their children and grandchildren to fish in Tired Creek. I hope this will become a place with many happy memories for everyone in Grady County.

And when you teach your children to fish, remember today, remember our persistence and our belief in the Tired Creek project. And teach your children that you can cast your nets where there are seemingly no fish, because if you're persistent, you will reel in a catch.

Thank you for including me in today's celebration. This is a great day! God bless you all!